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this class of inquiries, and who discusses them in a way and style equally interesting and instructive to the professional naturalist or physiologist, and to the general reader. To the intelligent agriculturist and breeder, these volumes will be especially valuable, and it is in the interest of such practical men and amateurs that they are here reprinted."

COSMOS. (Weekly) Paris.—This journal, besides giving weekly reports of the proceedings of the French Academy, has a most useful summary of news in all departments of physical and natural science, including rural economy and the application of chemistry to the arts. During the past year it has published, in weekly parts, "The Comparative Geology of Meteorites," by M. Stanislas Meunier, son of M. Victor Meunier, the Editor in chief. The leading article of the present number (dated March 21, 1868) is on the general method of the immediate analysis of meteoric stones, by M. Stanislas Meunier, which is succeeded by an account of M. M. E. Fremy and Terreil's general method of the immediate analysis of vegetable tissues.

M. T. Reiset writes on the ravages of the Cockchafer, or "Hanneton" (*Melolontha vulgaris*), and its larva, the beetle of which in the spring of 1865 defoliated the oaks and other trees, while immense numbers of their larvæ in the succeeding year, 1866, devoured to a fearful extent the roots of garden vegetables, etc., at a loss to the department of the Lower Seine of over five millions of dollars. This insect is three years in arriving at its perfect beetle state. The larvæ hatched from eggs laid by the beetles which appeared in such numbers in 1865, passed a second winter, that of 1867, at a mean depth in the soil of  $\frac{4.0}{100}$  of a metre, or nearly a foot and a half. The thermometer placed in the ground (which was covered with snow) at this mean depth, never rose to the zero point\* as *minimum*. Thus the larvæ survived, after being perfectly frozen (probably most subterranean larvæ are thus frozen, and thaw out in the spring at the approach of warm weather). In June, 1867, the grubs having become full-fed, made their way upwards to a mean distance of about thirteen inches below the surface, where, in less than two months, they all changed to the pupa state, and in October and November the perfect beetle appeared. The beetles, however, hibernate, remaining below the surface for a period of five or six months, and appearing in April and May. The immature larvæ, warned by the approaching cold, began to migrate deep down in the soil in October, when the temperature of the earth was ten degrees above zero. As soon as the snow melted they gradually rose towards the surface. They began to rise February 23, 1867, when the temperature of the earth had risen a little, being  $+7^{\circ}.1$ , the mean temperature of the soil in January being  $+2^{\circ}.8$ .

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF SCIENCE. (London.) In the April number Mr. John Mayer writes on the claims of Nitro-glycerine as an industrial agent. It has been used as a blasting material in the operations of mining, quarrying, and railway cutting for about three years. He con-

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\*By the Centigrade thermometer.